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Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein (left) shares a toast with (left to right) Justice Minister Tzahi Henegbi, State Attorney Edna Arbel, and former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, upon assuming his new post yesterday. (Brian Hestler)

Rubinstein assumes A-G post

Elyakim Rubinstein assumed the post of attorney-general yesterday, saying he was accepting his new responsibilities with "fear and love." The fear, he said, stemmed from the possibility that he would make a serious mistake, while the love was for the courts and for the post.

The new attorney-general was warmly welcomed with a festive reception at the Justice Ministry in Jerusalem, attended by Justice Minister Tzahi Henegbi, former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, State Attorney Edna Arbel, ministry Director-General Nili Arad and ministry staffers.

Arbel said she was sure Rubinstein would rebuild the fallen Tabernacle of David, and would restore the prestige of the State Attorney's Office and the office of the attorney-general.

Rubinstein, in his address to the gathering, called on the country to find "the golden mean" that could unite its diverse sectors, adding he hoped he could inject substance into the country's Jewish and democratic principles.

He quoted from both Jewish sources and the Koran on the importance of the judicial system.

He added he was sorry his late parents could not be present, quipping, "My father would have enjoyed hearing all the praise, and my mother would have believed it."

Attorney Roni Bar-On, who was attorney-general for two days last month before resigning after the public outcry that greeted his appointment, offered his best wishes to Rubinstein in an interview on Army Radio.

"I am sure he will fulfill his tasks intelligently, to the benefit of the whole judicial system, which is dear to me and to us all," he said. (Tum)

Netanyahu: We must keep edge

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will not protest the possible sale of 100 F-16 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia when he meets with President Bill Clinton at the White House today.

However, he will seek reassurances that Israel's qualitative edge will be preserved, Israeli officials said here yesterday.

The two leaders will also discuss data, uncovered by Israel and recently relayed to the US, dealing with Russian cooperation in Iran's efforts to build a longer-range Scud-type missile.

But the primary focus of their talks is expected to be the Palestinian and Syrian tracks in the peace process.

A senior US official said the administration is "certainly interested in hearing [Netanyahu's] thoughts, to the extent he's willing to share them, [on] where he wants to take the process."

"It's very important. It's a chance to review the thinking on the next steps, both in regard to implementing the Palestinian track and renewing the Syrian track," he said.

Speaking in Amsterdam en route to the US yesterday, Netanyahu said it was up to Syria to decide if it wants to pursue peace.

"Syria has to make a decision. Does it want peace. If it wants peace it can come to the peace table very quickly. If it doesn't want peace it will find ways to obstruct the resumption of the talks," he told reporters at Amsterdam airport.

Netanyahu held brief talks in Amsterdam with Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok and said he would return to the Netherlands on April 10 for more extensive talks.

Netanyahu's visit to Washington kicks off a month-long period during which some of the region's key players are arriving. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is due here later in the month and Jordan's King Hussein and Egypt's Hosni Mubarak are due here next month.

Taken together, the US official said, the four meetings are important because "they come following a very intense period — the Hebron understanding that launched a new chapter of the peace process following a problematic period. This is how we build on Hebron to see where the peace process goes."

Netanyahu's visit opens at the Blair House official guest residence with his first meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

He is then scheduled to meet with the chairman and ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee, Benjamin Gilman and Lee Hamilton, and afterward with Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms.

Later in the day Netanyahu is to meet with Vice President Al Gore. Then he goes to the Pentagon for a meeting with Defense Secretary William Cohen.

Meanwhile, members of Congress have this week attacked Mubarak and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa for what they contend is Cairo's lack of helpfulness in advancing peace in the region.

At a hearing yesterday, Albright was twice told by members of the House foreign operations subcommittee that Egypt is playing a negative role.

Sidney Yates of Illinois, the ranking minority member of the panel, said he is "a little disappointed" with how Egypt has "conducted itself" in the peace process and in general since Netanyahu came to power.

Albright responded by stating that the US method of conveying its views to Cairo is to "spend time" reminding Egypt of its trailblazing role in Middle East peacemaking, "and I think the message then becomes clear as to what we think at the moment."

On Tuesday, during another hearing with Albright, House International Relations Committee member Tom Lantos issued a veiled threat to Cairo that its foreign aid package could be endangered.

"I think it's important for our Egyptian friends to understand that when we deal with foreign aid appropriations, we will reward those like Jordan who effectively support peace in the region, and we will be less generous vis-a-vis those who, by their actions, have been less than helpful," Lantos said.

U2 includes Israel in upcoming tour

By HELEN KAYE and DAVID BRINN

U2, the rock and roll champions of human rights and political correctness and one of the world's biggest attractions, will be making its first visit to Israel on September 29.

U2's sole concert at Tel Aviv's Hayarkon Park is part of the "Popmart" tour to promote its upcoming album *Pop*, due to be released on March 3. The 62-city tour of the US, Canada and Europe is to begin in Las Vegas on April 25.

Speaking live on satellite TV from New York, U2 guitarist The Edge said, "We're a multiple outlet outfit. I think we have something for everybody."

The show's 18 numbers will include old and new songs, including those from *Pop*, the group's eleventh album. "Discotheque," the recently released single from the album, is already No. 1 on UK charts. U2 has sold 70 million records worldwide since 1980.

The group is bringing 200 people and 12,000 tons of equipment, including a four-meter-wide illuminated stuffed olive and the world's largest TV screen, measuring 50 by 17 meters.

Long-rumored to have avoided Israel due to perceived human-rights abuses, the Irish band has gone the way of fellow card-carrying liberals Peter Gabriel and Sting in giving Israel the post-Oslo seal of approval.

The quartet, consisting of the charismatic Bono, inventive guitarist The Edge, bassist Adam Clayton and drummer Larry Mullen, has been together since the late 1970s.

Together with R.E.M., they were one of the most successful bands to emerge from the ashes of the punk revolution. And just as importantly, they were an influ-



Bono

ence on hundreds of young bands, whose members admired their uncompromising attitudes.

At one point in the late 1980s, following the staggering critical and commercial success of *The Joshua Tree*, U2 was being called the '80s equivalent of The Beatles.

Following the mixed response to the sprawling *Rattle and Hum* film and record project, the band deliberately turned from self-righteous to ironic. Flashy costumes, experiments with electronics and dance tracks, and tongue-in-cheek stage personas dominated their 1990s albums and tours. However, the inspirational tone of their music remained.

Report: PM ignores PA ploys in capital

By LIAT COLLINS

Despite Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's claim that he is demanding the closure of Palestinian Authority operations and institutions in east Jerusalem in accordance with the Oslo Accords, he has instructed members of his staff to play down a list of 20 such violations, according to a report on Israel Radio's English-language news yesterday.

A list of the violations drawn up by the police and security establishment was presented to the Prime Minister's Office at the beginning of the week. It was published in *Ha'aretz*, and broadcast on the radio station yesterday. (See box.)

Although the Prime Minister's Office has released material on PA violations in the past — including a review after the Hebron deal was signed on the PLO's failure to amend its covenant — when presented with this list, the prime minister reportedly asked that it not be published.

According to the radio report, quoting unnamed sources, the reason is that the premier is not sure he will be able to fight all the activities and several cases might not stand up in the High Court of Justice.

Opposition to Netanyahu's stand on Jerusalem has been mounting among MKs from the coalition parties, reaching a new

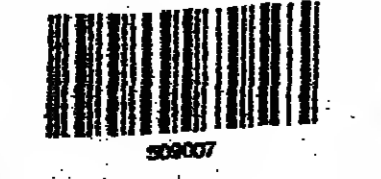
Palestinian Authority offices that are operating in Jerusalem in violation of the Oslo Accords include:

- Palestinian Ministry of Religious Affairs, operating at the entrance to the Temple Mount.
- Office of the Mufti of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, appointed by the PA
- The activities of the Palestinian security forces
- Orient House
- Palestinian Education Ministry
- Palestinian Youth and Sport Ministry
- Palestinian Mapping and Geography Ministry.
- The office of PA council member of Hatam Abdel Khader
- The Palestinian Housing Council;
- The Jerusalem Committee of the elected Palestinian Council which reportedly arranges anti-

Israel demonstrations on Jerusalem-related issues.

- The Palestinian Small Business project, reportedly operating within the framework of the Palestinian Ministry of Supplies.
- The National Islamic Committee to Confront the Settlements
- The Palestinian Institute for the Wounded
- The Palestinian Energy Center
- WAFPA, Palestinian news agency
- Al-Quds University, said to follow PA dictates
- In addition, the PA is said to have been involved in:
 - An attempted takeover of Mokassed Hospital
 - Intervention at Augusta Victoria Hospital
 - Attempts to take control of the Supreme Islamic Council at the entrance to the Temple Mount

The PA has also appointed a Jerusalem District governor.



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NEWS

in brief

Soldier dies of injuries from traffic accident

Lt. Einat Rahman, of Petah Tikva, died early yesterday morning at Beersheba's Soroka Hospital of wounds sustained in a traffic accident near Yeroham on Tuesday. Sgt. Yifat Naor, of Tel Aviv, Cpl. Rinat Farhi, of Rishon LeZion, and another soldier died on Tuesday.

Mother charged with murdering her newborn

Luna Tzioni, 32, of Hadera, was charged in Haifa District Court yesterday with murdering her newborn child. According to the charge sheet, Tzioni threw the baby out the window of her parents' second-story apartment. Neighbors found the baby in the yard and took her to Hillel Yoffe Hospital, where she died.

Woman dies in fall from porch

A 76-year-old Rishon LeZion woman died yesterday morning after falling from a second-story porch while hanging laundry. The woman was brought to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in critical condition, and died in the afternoon. Police said the incident was apparently an accident.

Boy, 17, held for raping girl

A 17-year-old boy was arrested yesterday on suspicion of raping a friend who studies at a boarding school in Kfar Sava. The girl said the boy raped her two days earlier when he came to visit her at her dormitory. She said she asked him to leave, and escorted him outside. He then dragged her into a field and raped her, she said.

No compensation for driver of stolen car

The Tel Aviv District Court ruled yesterday that a man who was driving a stolen car when he crashed and suffered serious injuries is not eligible for the compensation given to traffic accident victims. Shaul Biton, of Herzliya, sued the Kranit company for compensation for the May 1989 accident, in which the car overturned. Judge Nissim Yeshaya noted that the car had been stolen a number of days earlier and the driver knew this. Biton is therefore not eligible for compensation, he said.

Hebron prepares to reopen retail market

By HERB KEINON

A retail market in front of Hebron's Avraham Avinu compound, closed since the 1994 Machpela Cave massacre, was being readied for reopening yesterday, as Palestinian and Israeli representatives unlocked and entered some of the shops there to assess what repairs are needed.

Under the Hebron redeployment agreement, this market, which used to be a wholesale market, will be opened instead — because of security considerations — as a retail market. One IDF official said the reason for the change is obvious: to keep large trucks from loading and unloading at the site — something that would pose a security risk for the Jewish compound.

Settlement leaders have fought a long battle to get the market moved from the site, saying that it will bring thousands of Palestinians literally to the doorstep of the settlement's largest Jewish compound, posing a massive security problem.

The settlement has for months had a large sign above the market reading that the market is built on land stolen from the Jews after the 1929 massacre. Palestinian merchants praised

the innocuous opening of the market.

"This is a good achievement. Life starts to return to normal," vegetable seller Abdel Hadi Nasreddine told AP.

Meanwhile, the IDF yesterday demolished five illegally built homes in the Hebron area. Civil administration spokesman Peter Lerner said the homes were built within the last year without the proper licenses. The homes were built along the newly constructed bypass roads, which were built so that traffic would not go through developed Palestinian areas.

Lerner said the demolitions were part of an ongoing policy by the civil administration to prevent illegal building in Area C, the areas in the territories still under Israeli control.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza claim that the Palestinians are building hundreds of illegal units in Area C in an attempt to create facts on the ground before further redeployment talks begin. The goal behind this illegal building, according to council officials, is to create land links between the various Palestinian autonomous areas, thereby setting the groundwork for a Palestinian state.

Mordechai: No Lebanon pullout

By LIAT COLLINS

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told the Knesset plenum yesterday that there is "no alternative to IDF presence in the south Lebanon security zone."

He was answering a motion presented by Likud and coalition faction chairman Michael Eitan on a recent *Newsweek* report that South Lebanese Army soldiers are collaborating with Hizbullah.

He completely rejected a unilateral IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, saying the result would be terror attacks in northern Israel, like the attacks in Misgav Am, Avivim and Nahariya that took place before the security zone was established. Mordechai said the number of individual SLA soldiers helping Hizbullah had dropped.

During the debate, Mordechai and Eitan exchanged sharp words about a possible

IDF withdrawal.

"We cannot as citizens hear that the brilliant, large and sophisticated IDF says there's no other way. We have no other country, but there must be many other ways," Eitan said.

"The IDF and security leadership is of course busy day and night in trying to find solutions," Mordechai said. "It does not need incitement and insults to make it think seriously. We've sought every way."

"There's not one leader with whom I haven't raised the subject of finding a solution for Lebanon. But as of today, the same solutions are not to be found. And what is necessary today is to strengthen the spirit of IDF soldiers, first and foremost from within this House and government."

Criticizing the timing of the public discussion by some MKs on a possible IDF pullout from Lebanon, Mordechai said: "It's

unacceptable that there are those who make cynical use of a tragic accident," referring to last week's helicopter collision.

"They hear in Beirut what's being said here," Mordechai said, adding: "They don't just want to get us out of Lebanon but out of Jerusalem and it's better we fight them there even if the price is heavy."

The minister said talk of a withdrawal hurt the serving soldiers, the bereaved families and northern residents. He also noted that the south Lebanese residents would pay a heavy price and turn against Israel if it were to pull back.

The so-called Kochav Yair circle led by MK Gideon Ezra (Likud), which is examining a new approach to the IDF presence in south Lebanon, met in the Knesset yesterday.

Eitan announced he was not a member of the group and had only attended the first

meeting to hear the views presented. Former members of the security establishment who also attended the Saturday night meeting at Ezra's Kochav Yair home — retired major-general Danny Rothschild, former General Security Service head Ya'acov Perry and former senior GSS staffer Yossi Ginosar — were also noticeably absent. Ginosar said earlier this week that they had been invited to that meeting only to give their professional opinions.

At the outset of yesterday's meeting Ezra stressed that although the question of unilateral withdrawal from the security zone had been raised at Saturday night's meeting, this was not the aim of the group. He said the circle aimed at finding "imaginative new solutions" to the Lebanon problem, agreeing that a unilateral withdrawal would result in terrorists crossing the border.

Lebanon complains about IAF raids

By DAVID RUDGE

The Lebanese government submitted a protest to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group yesterday over the IAF strikes deep into Lebanon the previous day.

Syria also criticized the raids by IAF warplanes and helicopter gunships against a Hizbullah-run radio station, the Voice of the Oppressed, and bases of Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command

in the Bekaa Valley, and Nu'emeb, just south of Beirut.

Hizbullah's Manar television station reported that a shepherd wounded in the attack had died of his wounds, although there was no confirmation of this from any other source. At least three members of Jibril's group, including a senior commander, were also wounded.

The extremist Shi'ite organization said the raids were a clear violation of the understandings

reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath last April.

Mohammed Yaghi, a senior Hizbullah official in the Bekaa region, said the organization would increase its attacks. "The Israelis should know that we have the ability and that our struggle will continue until we kick them out of our land," Yaghi was quoted as saying in the Lebanese media.

Syria reacted bitterly to the attacks as well as to comments made by

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu when he visited troops at an IDF position on the northern border.

Radin Damascus called on Syrian army troops to be on full alert in case Israeli leaders were planning an "offensive adventure." State-run newspapers said Netanyahu had hardened his position on the eve of his visit to Washington, with the bombing and shelling of civilians in Lebanon.

Lebanese radio stations report-

ed extensive low-level flights by IAF warplanes over many parts of Lebanon yesterday. The only incident on the ground, however, was a long-range mortar attack on a South Lebanese Army position in the western sector of the security zone yesterday morning.

There were no casualties or damage as a result of the attack, for which the Amal Shi'ite movement claimed responsibility. IDF gunners returned fire.

Arafat lauds freed women

Hundreds of friends and family members mobbed freed Palestinian women prisoners as they arrived early yesterday morning in Ramallah, where Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat greeted them.

"I'm proud to be on free Palestinian land," shouted Abeer Wheidy, 27, as she climbed off a bus and was surrounded by ecstatic relatives who had been waiting since noon Tuesday for her release. Wheidy, convicted of commanding the Fatah cell that murdered Ofa resident Zvi Klein in 1991, had served 4 1/2 years of a life term.

Arafat called the releases a good sign for peace with Israel. "No doubt this will help the relationship between the two peoples," he said. "It was difficult, but in the end they were released and that's what counts," said Col. Jibril Rajoub, head of preventative security in the West Bank.

Earlier Tuesday, Palestinian women in traditional village cos-



Murderer Abeer Wheidy tells reporters in Ramallah yesterday that "the struggle will go on."

(Cover)

times danced in a jubilant circle after the first prisoner — Lamia Marouf — was released.

Marouf, 31, who served 10 years of a life term for her involvement in the 1984 kidnapping and murder of

soldier David Mano, was deported to Brazil, where she has dual citizenship and her daughter lives. Her

husband, who was also involved in the murder, remains imprisoned here. (AP)

Prince Hassan expresses hope for agreement on Jerusalem

By ELDAID BECK

PARIS — Since Israel and the Palestinian Authority came to an agreement on Hebron, there is hope they can do the same regarding Jerusalem, Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan said yesterday in Paris.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu demonstrated his pragmatism by signing the Hebron agreement and releasing the Palestinian women prisoners, Hassan said. These acts, which Hassan said show Netanyahu's

respect for the agreements signed by the previous government, combined with the Berlin-Eitan plan, create a new, hopeful political context in the Middle East.

Hassan, on an official visit to France at the invitation of French Prime Minister Alain Juppe, met with President Jacques Chirac yesterday. During his discussions with the French leaders, Hassan stressed that the Hebron accord restored the essential framework for the peace process.

"The legitimacy of the interim

autonomy accords has been acknowledged. Let us hope and pray that Hebron becomes the beacon guiding the future collaboration so that progress toward our ultimate goal will be assured," Prince Hassan said at a dinner Juppe hosted for him.

However, he emphasized peace talks with Syria and Lebanon must be renewed as soon as possible.

"We cannot speak about advancing peace while there is a stalemate in the talks with Syria and Lebanon," Hassan said.

US labor activist Benjamin Gebiner dies

Benjamin Gebiner, the long-time general secretary of the Workmen's Circle and the animated radio commentator who devoted his life in America to Jewish and labor causes, died in New York on Friday. He was 98.

Gebiner, who arrived in New York from Poland in 1921, was an administrator, teacher, lawyer, professor and journalist. He was contributor to the Yiddish newspaper *The Forward*, and from 1950 to 1972 provided daily commentary on the news for the paper's radio station, WEVD.

Gebiner's friends included David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir.

CAPITAL

Continued from Page 1

elections Binyamin Netanyahu promised that the government under his leadership would close PLO institutions in Jerusalem. After eight months, the PLO establishments in Jerusalem are flourishing and PLO security service men are roaming freely in Jerusalem.

The name he gave the motion is a play on the Likud's election slogan saying Shimon Peres would divide Jerusalem. Motions with the same title also were filed by Labor MKs Moshe Shahal and Micha Goldman. Shahal's motion mentions both the PA activities and the government's delay in starting the Har Homa housing project; Goldman's concentrates just on the Har Homa issue.

Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cuhnen said the prime minister's refusal to allow the Har Homa project "hinted at his intention to negotiate on Jerusalem."

He belittled the group of coalition MKs from the Land of Israel Front who are rebelling against party lines until the construction work in Jerusalem gets underway, and said they are "just pretending to be threatening."

Cohen called on them, however,

to support his bill calling for a special Knesset majority to approve any proposed change in Jerusalem's status.

The Third Way also discussed the Jerusalem issue in its faction meeting yesterday and criticized the prime minister over his handling of construction in the capital.

Party leader and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told reporters, however, his faction would not consider leaving the government as "we can work better from within. The faction decided it has commenced the struggle [for Jerusalem]."

Third Way MK Alex Lubotsky used much stronger language.

"If Netanyahu will not build in Jerusalem, then it might mean it is worth giving [Labor leader candidate] Ehud Barak a chance," he said.

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a great lady who will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

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SAMUEL VALINSKY

Management and Staff of The Jerusalem Post

Kirov Ballet to dance here

The world-renowned Kirov Ballet, its top stars and orchestra will open the 1997 Israel Festival on May 28 with a glittering production of 'Swan Lake' at Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool, which is being reconstructed for the event. The company then will move to the Roman theater in Caesarea for three more performances of 'Don Quixote.' The stellar lineup includes Julia Makhalina, who danced here in 1994, and Farukh Ruzimatov, who danced at the Gala of the Stars at the Israel Festival last year.

(Text: Helen Kaye)

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NEWS

in brief

Israeli stamps to be marketed in Far East

An agency for the sale, marketing and distribution of Israeli stamps and other philatelic products in China, Singapore and Hong Kong is opening today. The agency, located in Hong Kong, will be opened with a dinner to be attended by Chinese Foreign Minister Qichen Qian, Postal Authority director-general Moshe Tery, Consul-General in Hong Kong Zohar Raz, Philatelic Service director Yimon Bellin and various diplomats. The office, which has been given exclusive rights in those areas, will be managed by the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation based in New York. The IGPC, which has offices in Hong Kong, currently runs the official Israel Philatelic Service in North America. *Judy Siegel*

Helms: PM must reduce Israeli abortions

US Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Sen. Jesse Helms is to call on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu "to immediately reduce the number of abortions in Israel, or else substantial numbers of senators and congressmen would demand a reduction of aid to Israel."

So says Dr. Eli Shushel, head of the Efrat organization, which promotes childbirth and opposes abortions, who met with Helms and California Congressman Boh Dornan on their recent visit here.

The two US "right-to-life" legislators said they would invite Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai to the US to visit congressmen and senators who oppose abortion. *Judy Siegel*

IDF, Bar-Ilan sign deferment agreement

The IDF and Bar-Ilan University have signed an agreement allowing 50 honor students in physics and chemistry to defer their military service for the duration of their college studies. The IDF agreed to the arrangement due to the military's lack of soldiers trained in these fields.

The agreement differs from the *Anuda* (academic reserve) program, in which students mix university studies with military service in the summers and semester breaks and then sign on extra time. In this agreement, students are not obligated to sign on extra time for the right to defer their service. *Arish O'Sullivan*

Study: Pollution affecting health of Tel Avivians

MKs expressed shock at the data presented yesterday to the Knesset Interior Committee from a survey taken last year in Tel Aviv of second- to sixth-grade schoolchildren checking a possible link between their health and the level of air pollution in their neighborhoods. In certain neighborhoods, the frequency of respiratory problems is 45 percent higher than elsewhere in the city. The list of complaints includes asthma, bronchitis and severe coughing. The deviation from air cleanliness standards is higher in Tel Aviv than in any other city in the country, according to the Environment Ministry. *Liat Collins*

IDF appeals decision giving gay partner widower's benefits

By ESTHER HECHT

A month after an appeals committee attached to the Tel Aviv District Court ruled the IDF must recognize Adir Steiner as the widower of Col. Doron Maisel and grant him all benefits to which such widowers are entitled, the IDF has appealed the decision.

Steiner's suit, one of three he has filed against the IDF, derives from his seven-year relationship with Maisel, who died of cancer in 1991 at age 46.

Ten days ago, in response to another of the suits, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai declared the IDF would recognize Steiner "as if he were a family member" in matters, primarily ceremonial, related to perpetuating Maisel's memory.

"The army is being inconsistent," Steiner said yesterday. "Now I'm entitled to weep at memorial ceremonies, but when it comes to receiving pension benefits, for which deductions were made from Doron's salary, they don't recognize me."

The IDF's appeal, in Jerusalem District Court, is based mainly on the language of the law pertaining

to pensions, which it claims cannot be interpreted as granting benefits to same-sex partners.

"The appeal expresses no value judgment regarding the specific case nor in relation to the public debate on this issue," the IDF Spokesman said.

According to Steiner, however, the IDF's pursuit of the matter is "hypocritical and irresponsible. The army has declared there must be no discrimination against gays regarding the draft or advancement. In theory, a gay soldier can become the chief of staff."

"But if a gay soldier dies, they're saying he's worth less [than a heterosexual soldier], because they treat his partner as if he doesn't exist."

Meanwhile, Steiner's third suit, in which he is seeking recognition as the widower of a fallen soldier, is still pending. "Fallen soldiers" are those killed in battle, or who died during their service and because of their service. According to Steiner, an IDF medical committee determined Maisel's fatal illness (melanoma) was caused by overexposure to the sun during his army service.

Livnat, Knesset discuss extraterrestrial life

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Knesset's deliberations yesterday were out of this world, as Communications Minister Limor Livnat stated that the existence — or nonexistence — of unidentified flying objects cannot be verified by scientific methods.

Livnat, the government's liaison with the Knesset, was responding on behalf of the Science Ministry to a parliamentary question by MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor) dealing with recent claims about the landing of strangers from outer space. The latest one, revolving around a little green thing found at a moshav, was proven by foreign scientists to have terrestrial origins.

"No serious body in the world has authoritative evidence of so-called visits by creatures from space," Livnat said. "It's true that a lack of proof doesn't mean that something does not exist, but in the absence of evidence, anyone is free to believe what he wants."

The minister noted with irony that despite the "intense encounters" by extraterrestrial

creatures with laborers, farmers, housewives and pensioners, none of them have ever met a physicist, biologist, chemist or astronomer to get an exact scientific picture of the similarities and contrasts between our worlds."

The planet Earth "needed five billion years to develop intelligent life; although other parts of the universe are older, there may be heavenly bodies with life forms... but consider the fact that the average distance from another planet with the potential of life in our galaxy is 400 light-years, and it would take a spaceship 8.5 million years to get here."

The US government established investigative committees on UFOs in 1948, 1949, 1952 and 1962, and they discredited 95 percent of the testimonies, Livnat said, but "their conclusions did not weaken popular belief in UFOs. We don't know anything more about them today than we did 50 years ago, and that's true about the Loch Ness monster, about the Loch Ness monster, astrology, parapsychology, palm reading and other strange and various notions."

Child advocate: Restore funding for school health services

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health services in the schools and kindergartens have collapsed due to a halt in funding in January, National Council for the Child director Dr. Yitzhak Kadman said in a letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

"This is criminal negligence," said Kadman, noting that "for the want of NIS 40 million a year, the halting of vaccinations and physical checkups could have serious consequences years from now... Let us not be surprised if, in a few years, the rate of defects, diseases and physical limitations has grown significantly."

The problem developed after the introduction of the national health insurance sys-

tem, which stipulates that all health services, including those at schools, be supplied by the four health funds.

The Parents Association has gone to court to prevent the government from charging parents extra health-service fees.

But the insurers demanded extra funds to cover the school services, beyond their share in health taxes. As a result, the government allocated NIS 27 million to the municipalities for the current school year. However, the funds ran out in January.

Some municipalities brought in contractors employing low-level doctors and nurses instead of community health professionals, who previously supplied health services in schools. Some local authorities, however, took the

money and supplied no health services at all.

The Education Ministry said yesterday it and the Health Ministry would discuss a proposal whereby the Health Ministry will supply these services in the schools and kindergartens.

"The two ministries decided therefore to examine a proposal in which the Health Ministry would provide the services and in this way supervise the quality of service," according to the statement.

"Education Minister Zevulun Hammer believes that because there have been no state allocations for this since January, an immediate solution must be found." The education minister opposes charging parents for these services, as "their financial

burden is already enough," the statement said.

However, Health Ministry spokesman Effi Lahav said the Education Ministry's statement was "not accurate." Health Minister Yehoshua Matza had proposed that his ministry would supply health services only in development towns, via district health offices and family health centers.

"This would cover a third of all needy families in the country," Lahav said. "For this, the Treasury must transfer NIS 12 million in Education Ministry funds to the Health Ministry."

The spokesman stressed that the two ministers have not yet met to discuss the subject, and that a joint decision has yet to be reached.

Three Righteous Gentiles honored posthumously

By BATSHEVA TSUR

One day at the end of 1941, a 13-year-old boy from the Russian village of Kauchuk near Kursk, came across another youngster of his age lying unconscious in the street. Yesterday, the Russian boy, Sim Yereinin, received a certificate honoring his parents for saving the life of that Jewish boy.

Two other Righteous Gentiles from the former Soviet Union were also honored posthumously at yesterday's ceremony.

Back in 1941, Sim Yereinin, today a resident of Tiberias, ran to get water to revive the boy, a Jewish orphan by the name of Victor Feinstein, then took him home. Feinstein, it transpired, had contracted typhoid while wandering around for a year after his widowed mother was deported from their home town of Pereschnoi in the Ukraine.

Until the Red Army liberated the area about a year later, Ivan and Pelagea Yereinin cared for Feinstein as if he were their own son. At times of danger, they would send him to an elderly woman at the far end of the village who did not realize he was Jewish.

In 1993, Feinstein made aliya to Israel. Shortly afterward, he contacted Yad Vashem to have the Yereinins recognized for saving his life.

Meanwhile, Sim Yereinin, who had married a Jewess, applied to make aliya to Israel. In August 1996, his parents received the recognition from Yad Vashem. Just before that, Feinstein died, as did Sim Yereinin's wife. Yesterday Sim was the sole family member present at the Yad Vashem ceremony.

Also honored yesterday were the late Zinaida and Ludmila Zelinskayas who saved the life of a young Jewish woman in the Northern Caucasus by disguising her as a Christian and crossing into Moldavia with her. They forged documents belonging to a deceased relative which they said belonged to the Jewess, Tzippora.



Sim Yereinin (right) accepts a Righteous Gentile certificate in honor of his parents from Judge Ya'acov Meltz at Yad Vashem yesterday. (Itzak Harari)

Since Tzippora died 30 years ago, the request to honor the Zelinskayas was made by her sister who recently made aliya.

Yvgenya Koretski received the award yesterday on behalf of her late husband, Alexander, who had saved a Jewish woman after her non-Jewish in-laws refused to keep her in their home for fear of their lives.

The Jewess, Genrietta Kononenko from Dnepropetrovsk, was offered poison by her mother-in-law who tried to get her to commit suicide after her husband was called up.

But Koretski decided to take the Jewess in, despite all the dangers, and he and his sister, Maria, prepared a small room for her in their home.

In 1943, as the Germans were

retreating, two policemen came to the house and found Kononenko. Maria took off her gold watch and

brined them to leave. Alexander and Maria Koretski have meanwhile died, but Yvgenya, who

received the award, decided she would like to spend the rest of her life living in Israel.

Swiss confirm decision to set up Holocaust victims fund

The Swiss government formally agreed yesterday to set up and manage a humanitarian fund for Holocaust victims, but it did not commit itself to contributing to the fund.

A fund could be established within a week. Last week, the three major Swiss banks announced they had deposited Sfr 100 million to start such a fund, and they invited donations from the Swiss government and business community.

The government will consult with business and Jewish organizations to determine the exact purpose and recipients of the fund, Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti said. It was likely that the

fund would be used for projects to aid destitute Holocaust survivors and their offspring.

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg said from London last night, en route to testify in New York on the Holocaust compensation issue, "This is a great achievement. However, from our point of view, one is doing us a favor. This is not Swiss money. It belongs to the Jews."

"The decision indicates good will, but not a solution to the problem. The only solution will be when all assets looted from the Jews will be returned."

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

Alut launches campaign for autistic children

By LIAT COLLINS

A week-long fund-raising campaign for Alut, the Association for Autistic Children, kicked off in the Knesset yesterday with several meetings and events attended by Leah Rabin, the organization's chairwoman.



Leah Rabin (Itzak Harari)

"The problem of autistics is that they fall between the stools of the various ministries," she said. "They are not retarded and yet they are not curable. They are dealt with by three ministries: Health, Labor and Social Affairs and Education, the only one which understands and cooperates with us via the special education system until the age of 21.

"At the age of 21, however, the problems start. Over and over again, we have been promised funds to establish and run hostels, and not received them. Local residents also do not jump for joy at having a hostel in their neighborhood."

Maxim Levy (Geshar-Likud), chairman of the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee, which held a meeting on the subject, told the participants that Israel has yet to successfully deal with the problems of special populations. He said there is no comparison between the conditions of boarding school-type establishments far from home and residential facilities where children can visit their own homes daily and

be part of the local community. The Education Ministry's Leah Shaked said 1,500 autistics between ages three and 21 study in the special education system.

Liora Avigdor, from Alut, told the MKs that 17 years ago her father had murdered her 12-year-

old autistic son and committed suicide because he could not cope with the lack of help.

"And today, 17 years later, nothing has changed. There are still no solutions. In Haifa we established a course for 14 children but the facilities are closed because the min-

istries do not have a budget for it." Efi Arbel from the Finance Ministry's budget department said the discussions in his ministry are holding with the Health Ministry and Alut would be finished within a month, and then the construction of hostels could begin.

book department

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Albania police stop protests as criticism rises

TIRANA (Reuters) - Albanian riot police swamped the center of Tirana yesterday to prevent the opposition from staging anti-government protests amid increasing international criticism of the leadership's attempts to contain the crisis.

Truckloads of police descended on the headquarters of the Forum for Democracy opposition alliance and prevented several prominent politicians from leaving the building.

Bystanders on street corners, mainly elderly women, shouted at policemen: "We will turn this into a Vlore" - a reference to the southern port where three people have died this week in fierce clashes between protesters and police.

"This is intolerable. All the leaders of the opposition were prevented from taking part on the orders of the interior ministry," said Skender Gjinushi, leader of the Social Democratic Party.

The Forum for Democracy, which groups 10 political parties, had scheduled a mid-day protest at Tirana's main stadium to demand the government's resignation, but the interior ministry banned the gathering.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said it was deeply worried about the growing violence in Albania, warning that the potential

for a serious crisis was at hand. Europe's top security body called on all sides in the Balkan state to respect the rule of law.

The British government said it was appalled by the violence in Albania, adding it was "deeply concerned about reports of arrests and intimidation of opposition leaders."

Opposition politicians said violence was inevitable if the right-wing government of President Sali Berisha did not back down and allow peaceful protests by investors who blame authorities for the collapse of pyramid investment schemes.

The crisis has left hundreds of thousands of savers in Europe's poorest nation without a penny, sparking some of the worst popular unrest since Albania's hardline Stalinist regime was toppled in 1991.

Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi vowed to crack down on the protests, which he says are organized by leftist extremists.

"The Democratic Party has organized to respond with our forces, not only the police," he said. "We are ready." About 5,000 people massed in the centre of Vlore. The protests in the port town have been peaceful since Monday, when protesters enraged by the failure of a local investment scheme fought pitched battles with police.

Ecuador picks new president

QUITO (AP) - Congress chose its own leader as Ecuador's interim president, ending a governing crisis that has threatened this small Andean nation's political stability since the ouster of its elected president last week.

Fabian Alarcon - sworn in as the country's third president in a week - faces a huge budget deficit, inflation that could hit 50 percent this year and a public up in arms over recent austerity measures.

The 49-year-old Alarcon, the leader of Congress, replaces Rosalia Arteaga, the former vice-president who took over after lawmakers sacked President Abdala Bucaram for mental incapacity.

Fellow lawmakers voted 57-2 yesterday to elect Alarcon in a deal engineered by the powerful armed forces.

"The entire country is breathing easier because we have put this crisis behind us," said armed forces chief Gen. Paco Moncayo.

North Korea accuses South of kidnapping top official

Post news agencies

TOKYO - The North Korean Foreign Ministry said yesterday one of the country's top officials, reported earlier to have defected to South Korea, must have been kidnapped.

The South Korean government had said that Hwang Jang-yop, a senior aide to the North's leader King Jong-il, had sought asylum at its embassy in the Chinese capital, Beijing, along with his assistant Kim Dok-bong.

A Pyongyang Foreign Ministry spokesman told the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA): "The South Korean authorities are spreading the rumor

that Hwang Jang-yop, secretary of the central committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, asked for "asylum" at their "embassy" in Beijing today on his way back from Tokyo. This is inconceivable and impossible.

"If it is true that Hwang Jang-yop is in the South Korean 'embassy' in Beijing, it is obvious that he has been kidnapped by the enemy. We are seeking information from the Chinese side through relevant channels," KCNA quoted him as saying. "If it is brought to light that the South Korean authorities kidnapped him and describe him as seeking 'asylum,' we will regard it as a serious incident without precedent and take due countermeasures. We expect that the

Chinese side will take appropriate measures in this regard," the spokesman added.

Hwang, 73, is one of the chief architects of North Korean communism, and would be the highest ranking Pyongyang official ever to seek asylum in the South.

He is credited with playing a leading role in shaping the policy of *juche*, a brand of fanatic self-reliance providing the ideological underpinning for the world's last Stalinist state.

He is believed to be a cousin of the nation's late leader, Kim Il Sung. He leaves a wife, two sons and a daughter behind in North Korea, officials in Seoul said.

The defection by Hwang came as North Korea was preparing to celebrate its biggest

holiday, the 55th birthday of its de facto leader, who rose to power upon the death of his father almost three years ago.

The weekend celebrations this year had already been overshadowed by the nation's worsening economic plight, aggravated by two successive years of devastating floods that have plunged North Korea toward famine.

For the third time in a year, the UN World Food Program issued an appeal this week for 100,000 metric tons of emergency food aid worth \$41 million for the impoverished country.

South Korean Ambassador Chung Jong-wook said Hwang defected at around 10 a.m. with an aide in his 50s.



Forging toward independence
Chechnya's new President Aslan Maskhadov raises his fist at his inauguration ceremony in Grozny yesterday. Elected last month, Maskhadov has promised to fight for full independence from Russia. (Reuters)

Suspect 'hated blacks, Jews'

FAYETTEVILLE, North Carolina (AP) - A former paratrooper accused of shooting a black couple to death as part of a skinhead initiation would give the Nazi salute while listening to a song about killing blacks and Jews, his ex-girlfriend testified.

James Burmeister also displayed Nazi flags and wore skinhead outfits in his Fort Bragg barracks room, and said that his white boot laces symbolized white supremacy, while yellow laces meant the wearer had killed someone, Kelly Cook Kelly testified as the trial opened.

Mrs. Kelly testified that in March 1995, Burmeister "told me that him and his friends were racists and they stuck with their own kind." Months later, she told Burmeister that being a skinhead was a phase.

"He told me I was right and it would be over when he killed someone."

She also identified Burmeister in a photo that showed a group giving a Nazi salute. She said the salute was given when they played a rock song called *Third Reich*, which had lyrics about killing blacks and Jews. The song, by a group called Rohowa, was played for jurors.

Burmeister, 21, one of three former soldiers accused, is charged with murder and conspiracy in the Dec. 7, 1995, killings of Michael James and Jackie Burden.

Holy Sushi fa

Thousands rally against Milosevic

By JOVANA GEC

BELGRADE (AP) - Striking teachers and independent trade union leaders joined 20,000 students who hit the streets yesterday as opponents of President Slobodan Milosevic kept up the protests that yielded their first triumph over his authoritarian rule.

On Tuesday, after three months of non-stop demonstrations, Serbia's parliament acted on Milosevic's instructions and passed a law that finally conceded local election victories won by the opposition last November.

By midday yesterday, some of the tens of thousands of teachers on strike in 1,800 schools across Serbia had surrounded the parliament building in downtown Belgrade to press their demands for overdue pay and higher wages.

Some 20,000 students who want their pro-Milosevic university rector ousted went on their 82nd daily protest march, while independent union leaders added to the street carnival by setting up a soup kitchen aimed at feeding the hungry and rallying Serbia's disorganized workers.

The main opposition coalition, Zajedno (Together), called supporters to an evening event that was to feature launching an unmanned red boat into the Danube river to symbolize the desired departure of Milosevic's neo-Communists from Belgrade.

Bowing to pressure from home and abroad, the parliament controlled by Milosevic reinstated opposition election victories in the capital Belgrade and 13 other major towns.

Milosevic apparently was hoping

to end street protests which began when he annulled those opposition wins and developed into a grassroots revolt against his rule. Coupled with foreign pressure, it created the biggest challenge to his decade in power.

"The mood is extremely tense, people are not satisfied with crumbs," said a top opposition leader, Democratic Party leader Zoran Djindjic.

"I expect protests to continue in all of Serbia until larger changes than the return of stolen votes happen," Djindjic said.

"Serbia is in a mature stage of protests. ... Serbia will not calm down until the government is changed." Establishment of municipal governments in Belgrade, where Djindjic is to become mayor, and other cities now conceded to the opposition is expected in days.

New Rushdie bounty denounced

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain called on Iran yesterday to denounce an increased bounty for the killing of British writer Salman Rushdie.

Campaigners against the death sentence, imposed by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for Rushdie's alleged blasphemy against Islam, called on Europe to break off all talks with Iran except those aimed at ending the threat on his life.

A leading Iranian politician distanced his government from the offer of a \$2.5 million reward.

Mohammad Javad Larjani said the 15th Khordad (June Fifth) Foundation, which offered the reward, was a charitable body that did not represent the government.

Shuttle set for Hubble tune-up

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, Texas, (Reuters) - The crew of the shuttle *Discovery* yesterday flexed the spacecraft's robot arm, checked their space suits and said they were ready for a service call on the orbiting Hubble telescope.

Discovery trailed Hubble by 930 km yesterday morning and was closing in on it by about 110 km with each orbit of the earth.

Final preparations were under way to retrieve the telescope early this morning for a four-day refurbishment.

Astronaut Steve Hawley, who used the shuttle's robot arm in 1990 to launch the telescope, put the Canadian-built arm through its paces to be sure it was working.

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Cheese, honey, olive oil and wine - we'll taste them all on our way. We'll start at the organic dairy of Kili, and continue on to the olive oil press at the Erusee village of Yanash, then the prize-winning Dalton winery. We'll also visit the bee hives of Shadmot Dvora and its silk production unit. The Galilee is especially beautiful at this time of the year. Join us!
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Tour guide: Israel Shalem

Tuesday March 25
IRISES ARE BLOOMING IN GILBOA
Every year in March it happens. Irises cover Mt. Gilboa. They are the largest, most beautiful and colorful, and some are yellow. We'll visit Nahal Toot on the trail of lupinus, the "Cyclamen Hill" of Gilad and Givat Hamoreh. Lunch at Kibbutz Tirat Zvi.
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Thursday April 3
ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY
In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitalier Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land, the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.
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Tour guide: Danny Syon

Thursday April 24
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN
The Bar-Kochba Revolt failed. 600,00 Jews died. Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves, and Tora study came to an end. But a new center arose in the Galilee, and the towns of Zippori and Tiberias became famous. We'll visit them, as well as Beit Shearim, the burial place of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi and his family.
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Tour guide: Danny Weis

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Jews and Catholics: Not much more to say

Has the dialogue reached an impasse?
Haim Shapiro reports

Jews have good reason to be satisfied with the results of their dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church; the Church has undergone a virtual revolution, expunging anti-Jewish elements from its prayers and textbooks, fighting antisemitism, and perhaps above all, extending full recognition to Israel.

And yet it appears that in spite of these achievements, or perhaps because of them, the dialogue between Jews and Catholics seems to be under some strain. Could it be that now that Jews have what they want, they are no longer interested in talking to Catholics? At a public symposium in Jerusalem this week on The Future of Jewish-Catholic Relations in the World and in Israel, Rabbi David Rosen of the Anti-Defamation League spoke of a "creeping paralysis" of ICIC, the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, a body specifically set up to represent Jews in talks with the Roman Catholic Church.

Rosen admitted that the justification for such talks has often been to fight antisemitism and galvanize the Church into reforming its doctrine. In simple terms, this can perhaps be best illustrated by an experience of mine while attending an interfaith gathering in Europe a few years ago. One of the participants was a haredi rabbi complete with a black hat, coat and beard, a far cry from the liberal clergy and secular lay people who usually make up most of the Jewish contingent at such gatherings.

When I asked him why he was taking part, he expressed himself in terms of pure self-preservation.

"They are looking for their Jewish roots, and we want them not to kill us," he said.

While the Jewish participants in the dialogue with the Church were not concerned with averting an imminent pogrom, they were anxious to follow up the revolution in the way the Church looked at the Jewish people, which

came in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. Sister Maureen Fritz, president and founder of the Bat Kol Institute in Jerusalem, which is devoted to teaching Christians about Judaism, distributed a questionnaire given to Catholics to determine whether their textbooks were in keeping with the new outlook.

"Is the Hebrew Bible and the Jewish tradition founded upon it compared with the New Testament in such a way that both traditions are seen to be founded on both love and justice, or in a false way that sees the Hebrew Bible as forming a religion of justice, fear and legalism in contrast to a New Testament stress on God's love?" reads one question.

"Do texts treating Church history honestly admit to Christian mistreatment of Jews in various periods of history?" reads another.

"In terms of the doctrine, there is little more that needs to be said," Rosen admitted.

JUST AS important for Jews is the issue of Catholic recognition of Israel. Although Catholic spokesmen were at pains to stress that there was no connection between the "religious" discussions between Jews and Catholics and the "political" issue of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See, for the Jews it was of utmost religious importance.

As long as there were no diplomatic relations, Jews felt, the Church was ignoring what Rosen described as "the inextricable relationship between Jewish and identity and Israel," and worse still, appeared to be adhering to the teaching that the Jews were being punished for deicide.

Cardinal Edward Cassidy, head of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, while reiterating the distinction between "religious" and "diplomatic," admitted that with the signing of the Fundamental Accord between the Holy See and the State of Israel, a new stage had been reached in



Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau with Vatican representative Cardinal Edward Cassidy.

(Arie Jerolimati)

Catholic-Jewish relations.

Reviewing the achievements of the past, he noted that these achievements had put into question the need for further high-level meetings and action. What remained, he appeared to say, was action and education on a local level so that religious leaders and their communities would actually know what had been achieved.

At the same time, Cassidy expressed the frustration of the Catholics who see the Orthodox rabbinate as their natural partners in dialogue, while those who engage in such talks on the Jewish side are most often Conservative or Reform rabbis or leaders of Jewish communal organizations.

"The question that arises for many of us concerns the fact that often the representatives on one side of the dialogue are clergy and theologians, while those on the other side are often lay representatives of their community organizations. Yet, the questions dealt with in our dialogue have a religious significance and... we are meeting as communities of faith," Cassidy said.

The problem was faced by Rosen, himself an Orthodox rabbi, who noted the demise of the Synagogue Council of America, a part of ICIC, following the withdrawal of the Orthodox.

Reservations by American Orthodox rabbis toward such participation had come, Rosen said, following an article by the late Rabbi J.B. Soloveichik, spiritual head of Yeshiva University, expressing doubts about theological dialogue, while encouraging cooperation with non-Jews on civil, social and ethical issues.

In fact, Rosen pointed out, Soloveichik himself had participated in many theological meetings. The article, Rosen suggested, was intended to encourage more narrow-minded rabbis by suggesting a series of boundaries with which they could live. In any case, Rosen added, Orthodox rabbis in Israel and Europe make no such distinction. They view close relations between Jews

and Christians as either desirable or undesirable.

As Rosen pointed out, even the highest levels of the official rabbinate in Israel are willing to participate in interfaith gatherings, albeit usually far from Israel and from the criticism of their haredi colleagues. (In fact, Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar Yashuv Cohen attended the opening session of the symposium and gave his blessing to the gathering.)

However, if the participation of Orthodox Jewish clergy in Israel is problematic, so is that of the higher ranks of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. In a rare appearance at such a gathering, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah noted that dialogue is a Western reality. Even in this country, it is mostly between Westernized Jews and expatriate Christians.

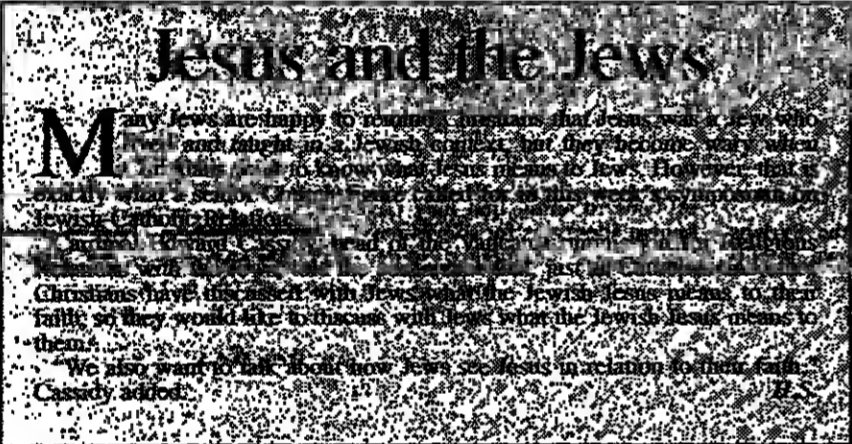
In order to talk to local Christians, Sabbah said, it was necessary to relate to them as Palestinians.

"Christians are not only a separated religious community. As any Christian in the world, they belong to a people

and nation; any attempt to separate them or eradicate them from their people will only harm them," he said. Noting what he called the Palestinian suffering under the yoke of oppression created by the policies of the government of Israel, Sabbah suggested that just as Western Christians had had to repent for the treatment of Jews, so Jews would have to repent for their treatment of the Palestinians.

Partially echoing Sabbah, Dr. Daniel Rossing, a Jewish educator, called for Jews to appreciate the history, situation and sensitivities of local Christians, just as Christians abroad had had to understand the special sensitivities of the Jewish minority.

"We must recognize that the Christian community wages a daily struggle for survival, relating to Moslems, Jews, Western Christians [and others and that they] face a six-dimensional chess game in which a move in one direction can mean defeat in another," Rossing said.



DEAR RUTHIE

It's tough being a son-in-law

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, My father-in-law died three years ago. Since then, my mother-in-law comes to visit us in Israel several times a year. Each time she comes, she stays for a few weeks and totally disrupts our lives. My wife and I have three children who are always very happy when their grandmother stays with us.

The problem is my wife. She and her mother have a very complicated relationship. They are always at each other's throats but are also very close in a strange way. During these visits I always end up caught in the middle - inevitably being blamed for everything.

My wife gets annoyed with me for not helping out enough; my mother-in-law gets annoyed at me for dominating her daughter's time. And then, after the visit is over, it takes us at least another two weeks to resume normal life together.

I have had it with this roller-coaster, to the point where I've even told my wife that I don't want her mother staying with us any more.

My wife then feels hurt and says that I am inconsiderate. I don't know what to do about this any more.

Seething Son-in-Law Somewhere in Israel

Everyone, to some extent, regresses to childhood behavior when around their parents. Your wife is no exception. The difference is that most adults do not spend chunks of intense periods of time living in the same house with their parents after a certain age.

By living in your home several times a year for weeks at a time, your mother-in-law is entering your lives and altering the balance you and your wife apparently manage to achieve when she is not there.

Your wife reverts to patterns of family dynamics more relevant to her past than to her present. Her mother, too, plays out her role in the "expected" scenario. You, then, are caught in the cross-fire, and feel victimized in your own house - as a result of your hospitality to your widowed mother-in-law.

Keep in mind that it is easy to slip into unhealthy family dynamics, such that the transformation from "victim" to "participant" often occurs gradually and unconsciously.

Ask yourself whether you have begun to get swept up in an undesirable triangle.

If not, the best way to remain outside of the "sparing ring" is to make it clear to your wife (during the weeks when your lives resume normalcy) that you will be stepping aside when your mother-in-law is around, even if this means helping out around the house less than you normally do.

If, on the other hand, you find yourself acting out a little role of your own when these extended visits take place, you may have to make a concerted effort to break the cycle.

If done successfully, you will no longer need to oust your wife's mother from the premises - as you have threatened - in order to regain your home.

Dear Ruthie,
What is an appropriate (and not too expensive) gift for a colleague who just had a baby? I don't have any children myself, and I'm terrible at selecting gifts of any kind.
Guiltless Gift Giver
Jerusalem

Dear GGG,
A photo album or picture frame; a gift certificate for a baby shop; bottles hand-painted with the baby's name; a book on child rearing. Mobiles, rattles and teething rings are all good.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

What was it really like in ancient Rome?

How do you convey to a modern world what life was like in ancient Rome, what it felt like to walk its streets, reside in its palaces and barter in its marketplaces?

A book? A movie? A seminar? Some of the biggest brains in archaeology, architecture, history and the classics have something else in mind: virtual-reality models to be ready in time for the year 2000 when the city celebrates its past two millennia.

At a recent seminar, experts from Italy, the United States and the Vatican tossed around the idea of pooling resources for the expensive, time-consuming project.

All the proposals aim at letting people - be they computer users sitting in their living rooms or tourists kicking up dust in the city's Imperial Forums - experience the world of the ancients as

revealed by decades of academic research.

The projects "will allow a common person to walk through the minds of outstanding historians," said Kumar Patel, vice chancellor for research at the University of California, Los Angeles.

An important side benefit for cash-strapped Italy, which has been unable to properly care for its historic monuments, would be a new way for the curious to

learn about the past without creating wear and tear. Virtual-reality models have "an important use for conservation. That's the great value of this," said Francesco Antonicelli, of Italy's state-funded CNR research center.

Making the big push for international cooperation on the projects is UCLA, which dubbed its virtual-reality brainchild "Rome Reborn."

The Getty Museum in Malibu,

California, commissioned UCLA to create a virtual-reality model of Trajan's Forum, which the university plans to complete by the year's end. In time for the inauguration of the museum's new Brentwood Center.

But the university has its own, more ambitious plans: reconstructing all of Rome within the city's ancient walls.

Or at least a virtual version of that. (AP)

GAME TIME

HISTORY OF CHESS - by Victor Keats, world-renowned expert
The most comprehensive review of chess history is now available in this 3 volume series by Victor Keats. Most of the text derives from translators from Arabic and Hebrew, with accompanying commentaries, illustrations, reproductions from manuscripts, and pictures of chess pieces and early chess problems. This is an invaluable reference source for collectors, players and everyone fascinated by this ancient game.

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VOL. III - CHESS AMONG THE JEWS - a catalogue of Hebrew sources, and a translation and explanation of the work of Moritz Steinschneider.

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

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MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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TASE ROUNDUP

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Chemical companies lead shares lower

Shares dropped yesterday, led by chemicals companies and the supermarket operators Superol Ltd. and Blue Square Properties and Investments Ltd.

Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., which together account for more than 16.5 percent of the Maof Index, also declined. Investors are awaiting the consumer price index report tomorrow for clues to the central bank's interest rate policy.

Shachar Gazit, analyst at Batmcha Securities and Investments Ltd., said investors weren't concerned by the rise in fourth-quarter output of goods and services in Israel slowed to a 3% annual rate.

Gross domestic product rose at an annual rate of more than 6% from 1990 to 1995. "There's a good possibility interest rates will be cut, if not this month, then soon," Gazit said.

"How long can you keep rates high with the economy slowing?" The Mishtanim index of 100 most-traded shares fell 0.97% to 254.81.

The Maof index of 25 top issues dropped 1.27% to 262.41. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 134 million of shares traded, 29% less than the month's daily average of NIS 187.5m, and 21% greater than the year's average of NIS 162.8m.

Koor was the most-active issue, falling 1.5% as most with NIS 7.3m. of shares traded. The chemicals companies dropped even as the shekel weakened to 3.34 against the US dollar from 3.31 yesterday.

A weaker shekel helps the chemicals companies and other exporters by making their products cheaper for overseas buyers. And these companies pay costs and salaries in weaker local currency and earn revenue in stronger dollars.

(Bloomberg)

Key Representative Rates: US DollarNIS 3.3420 + 0.33%

StartingNIS 5.4538 - 0.14%

MarkNIS 1.9619 - 0.64%

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES: DJ Industrial12,882.32 +0.12%

OTHER STOCK MARKET INDEXES: FTSE 1002,804.40 -0.15%

DOLLAR CROSS-RATES (US): Pound spot1.632 +0.05%

SPOT MARKET METALS (US): Gold (Feb)364.8 +0.3%

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES: Gold (Feb)364.8 +0.3%

LONDON METAL FIXES: Gold 1000364.8 +0.3%

WHERE TO GO: Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 20.00 per line, including VAT.

JERUSALEM CONSULTED TOURS: HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur., 11 a.m. from Brothman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg., Bussas Ave. 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 5822819.

HAIFA'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

MUSEUM TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Andres Serrano: The Morgus. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection. Lucian Freud: selection of works. Tzvi Hecker: Sunflower. Portrait. By a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART.

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES: Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Strauss Administration Bldg., Bussas Ave. 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 5822819.

FIRE FIRST AID 101: Manager: David Adorn. In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-8110. The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Emergency services: Eran - Emotional First Aid. 1201, also: Jerusalem 581-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children only 896-1113), Haifa 867-22223, BeerSheva 649-4333, Netanya 622-5110, Karmiel 968-8770, Kiryat Sava 787-4555, Hadera 634-6789.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-837-8310, 08-855-0506 (also in Amharic).

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9131 (men), Jerusalem 622-5558, Haifa 863-0533, Eilat 833-1877.

Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7676.

DUTY HOSPITALS: Jerusalem: Bbur Holim (Internal, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Netanya: Ramat Aviv (24 hours); Herzliya: Clalit Pharmacy, Beit Merkazim, 8 Masaki (cfr. Sderot Hospital); Herziya Pituh, 955-8472, 955-9407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clalit Pharmacy, Lav Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

POLICE 100

Two rabbis remanded in alleged bribes-for-conversion scheme

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Following a television report documenting a case in which a couple paid thousands of dollars for a quickie conversion to Judaism, the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday remanded two religious functionaries for eight days each.

The incident, filmed by a hidden camera and shown on Hana Dayan's *Fact* program on Channel 2 on Tuesday night, showed Rabbi Michael Dushinsky, the kashrut supervisor in the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, taking \$15,000 in cash from a Jerusalem reporter and a kibbutz volunteer from Peru, who posed as a couple who said the woman was pregnant and they wanted a fast conversion so they could marry.

The film showed Dushinsky telling the couple that a conversion normally took a year or more, but that they would be provided with false witnesses who would tell a rabbinical court that the woman had lived with them and followed an observant Jewish way of life.

The court remanded Dushinsky, 51, of Petah Tikva, and Rabbi Binyamin Bar-Zohar, 46, of Jerusalem, who had functioned as the rabbi of the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council. Police told the court that since the program was aired, they had received many similar complaints from the public and that this was apparently a common phenomenon.

The police said Dushinsky had taken bribes ranging from \$7,000 to \$15,000, promising to complete the conversion process within two weeks. He then allegedly passed two-thirds of the money to Bar-Zohar, who in turn allegedly used his connections in the rabbinical courts to facilitate the conversion. The police said that they knew of at least 10 such cases and that they



Rabbi Binyamin Bar-Zohar (left) and Rabbi Michael Dushinsky yesterday at Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. (Tan Osechayev/Israel Sun)

had found \$32,000 in Dushinsky's home.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai yesterday expressed his shock and announced that Dushinsky would be immediately suspended.

Deputy Religious Affairs ministers Yigal Bibi and Arye Gamliel yesterday called a press conference, which they termed an open session of the "conversion authority," a body apparently organized in the wake of the scandal, with the participation of representatives from the ministry, the Chief Rabbinate, and the Tsomet Institute, which organizes conversion courses. A ministry spokesman said the body included

a representative of the Absorption Ministry, but none was present.

Bibi said that Dushinsky and Bar-Zohar were not rabbis and not part of the conversion apparatus. In an apparent reference to the Reform and Conservative movements, Bibi said that if conversion would be as "certain groups want," the situation regarding conversion would be as depicted in *Fact*.

However, Bibi admitted that he had not acted since November, when Anat Galili, spokesperson for the Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), had told the Knesset Aliya and Absorption Committee of dozens of cases in which conversion can-

didates had been asked for bribes. At the time, Bibi had told Galili to go to the police.

Rabbi Yisrael Rosen, head of the Tsomet Institute, said that it was impossible to fool the special conversion courts used by the institute, but he acknowledged that with false witnesses it would be possible to fool a regular rabbinical court.

Rosen estimated the number converted by the special courts at 500 to 600 candidates a year, while Rabbi Rafi Dayan, an aide to Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron, who heads the rabbinical courts, said that a total of 700 to 800 people are converted annually by recognized

Orthodox rabbinical courts, of some 1,000 to 1,200 who wish to be converted.

Rabbi Einat Ramon, spokesperson for the Conservative Movement, said that almost half of those asking to be converted by Conservative rabbis had done so in reaction to being asked for bribes by those close to the Orthodox establishment.

Rabbi Uri Regev, head of the IRAC said that the bribery was a result of the monopoly of the Orthodox and their rigid and arbitrary procedures. He, too, spoke of conversion candidates who had first attempted an Orthodox conversion and had been disillusioned by demands for money.

Ayalon Hasson: I'm being stalked

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Channel 1 reporter Ayalon Hasson says she has been stalked by agents from two different organizations since she revealed the alleged "Bar-On" for Hebron affair, concerning the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general.

Hasson, who spoke on Israel Radio yesterday, called one group of stalkers "the good guys" and the other "the bad guys." She would not say who they were, but said she knows what investigating agency hired "the bad guys."

Hasson said the stalkers operate, both detectives on foot on her street and agents in cars waiting on Sderot David Hamlech, which is the only way out of her street. Yesterday, she said, one side had three female detectives on her street watching her.

She said the "bad guys" interest could be to see who she meets in the hope of finding out what she knows or who her sources are. On one occasion, to shake off her stalkers, she advised "the good guys" when she intended to leave, and they took off in their car in one direction. As soon as they started driving off, they were followed by "the bad guys," who assumed "the good guys" were on Hasson's tracks.

Last week, the Jaffa villa of sculptor Ilana Gur was broken into, immediately after Hasson had visited there. None of the artworks or jewels was touched, and only a cellular telephone and bag of documents were taken.

WEATHER

Haifa	6-17	Tiberias	4-18
Afula	1-17	Samarra	3-14
Tel Aviv	7-17	Jerusalem	2-14
Berzheva	2-15	Dead Sea	10-20
Eilat	7-22		

Forecast: Partly cloudy, chance of rain.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	C	HIGH	F
Amsterdam	06	43	06	48
Berlin	02	48	11	50
Bombay	27	45	23	72
Chicago	07	45	16	59
Frankfurt	06	41	08	49
Geneva	08	41	14	57
Hong Kong	13	59	15	59
London	04	52	15	55
Los Angeles	11	52	17	63
Madrid	10	50	12	54
Moscow	01	34	02	35
New York	09	49	12	54
Paris	04	42	15	59
Stockholm	01	24	05	41
Sydney	16	54	22	72
Tokyo	03	57	08	52
Toronto	03	37	08	52
Vienna	04	37	08	52
Zurich	04	37	08	52

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the queen of spades, the jack of hearts, the 10 of diamonds and the 10 of clubs.

Millon: Increase France-Israel ties

By STEVE RODAN and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

French Defense Minister Charles Millon pledged yesterday to revive the 1994 defense cooperation accord with Israel, saying he wants to increase sales of military equipment between the two countries.

Touring Israel Aircraft Industries outside Lod, Millon acknowledged that the nearly three-year-old accord has not produced a significant volume of sales. The total annual volume of military trade between the two countries is \$60 million.

"It's true that in the exchange of equipment between France and Israel and France, the numbers are not high," Millon said. "We have to increase these numbers. This cooperation is not just economic but political."

Millon said he hoped his two-day visit would lead to increased joint cooperation in the defense industries. He said he expects heightened activity in the months leading

to the Paris Air Show in June.

The French defense minister pointed to a little-publicized arms deal between Israel and France. This involved the acquiring of five Dolphin helicopters from the US subsidiary of the Paris-based Aerospatiale, Eurocopter.

At the same time, IAI agreed to deliver the Hunter, an unmanned air vehicle, to the French. French officials said this was an exchange of the Dolphin for the Hunter.

IAI officials said French-Israeli cooperation could extend into several spheres, such as electro-optics, avionics and satellites.

Next month, IAI chairman Avigdor Ben-Gal and IAI director-general Moshe Keret are to visit Paris as part of an Israeli delegation to explore joint cooperation with French defense industries. Ben-Gal said the goal is to develop a project from concept to production of a system.

French-Israeli defense cooperation had been virtually nil since president Charles de Gaulle

imposed an arms embargo on Israel after the Six Day War. However, the 1994 defense cooperation agreement has led to some efforts, including a high-level strategic dialogue between the defense ministries of both countries.

Still, defense industry sources said France, rated the world's third-largest defense exporter, sees Israel as a competitor in many areas. In addition, French fear of losing its Arab and Islamic customers has dampened any enthusiasm for much defense cooperation.

However, Millon, on his first visit to Israel, said he was sending a top defense official here next week to lay the foundations for joint projects. France is interested in Israeli weapons technology, particularly in armor protection and avionics.

Prior to his visit with the IDF, Millon was received by an honor guard at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv and met Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai for the first time. Mordechai briefed Millon on

the strategic situation in the Middle East and told him that Iranian and Iraqi quests to obtain non-conventional weapons would disrupt the entire region's stability.

During their discussions, Mordechai also sought French involvement in seeking a solution to the Lebanon situation. Mordechai told Millon that peace with Lebanon could pave the way to peace with Syria.

"Lebanon can be the starter which will move the political process with Syria and Lebanon, but it can also be a gigantic mine field which can harm the entire process," Mordechai said. "If our citizens and soldiers continue to be harmed, we are likely to come to an escalation which will take us backwards instead of forwards."

Millon replied that it was in his government's interest to find a political solution that will give Israel security in the framework of an arrangement between Israel and Lebanon. Israeli defense officials said.



French Defense Minister Charles Millon (left) tours Israel Aircraft Industries with IAI managing director Moshe Keret yesterday. (Tan Osechayev/Israel Sun)

Bill would require outside probes for IDF accidents

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset yesterday passed the preliminary reading of a bill which would place the inquiries of IDF training accidents in the hands of an independent, external investigator with the status of a judge. The bill was drafted by MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor) and supported in the vote. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. It passed unanimously by 31 votes.

Although the government opposes the bill, Mordechai voted in favor at the last moment in view of the helicopter accident. The bill relates only to training accidents, but Yehzekel hopes to present another bill to cover operational accidents such as the helicopter disaster.

Sarid: Meretz is not a party of Sheinkinites

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

"We [in Meretz] are not patronizing or Sheinkinites, we are always with the underdogs and the underprivileged, and they will never have a more loyal ally than Meretz," MK Yossi Sarid said yesterday at the Meretz founding convention.

The convention marked the merger of the three factions comprising Meretz - the Citizens Rights Movement, Mapam and Shimi - into one party after five years of co-existence as three separate parties.

The parties' respective leaders decided it was time to unite the forces supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state and fighting for equality for individuals and groups, regardless of religion, origin, sex and sexual preferences.

The merger will also make it easier to field one candidate for prime minister, should the party decide to do so.

Sarid rejected the argument that Meretz represents the elite classes of north Tel Aviv, and has a patronizing attitude toward the poor or development town residents.

"People are always attaching false stigmas to us, saying we're patronizing. That's nonsense. We talk to the entire public, trying to persuade. We don't throw sand in people's eyes, we don't distribute umlets, we don't promise peace

free of charge, for there is no free peace.

"All those who do those things, they are patronizing, because they think the public can be led astray. We are not giving up on any sector of the public; we are the true allies of the weaker classes and the underprivileged."

Sarid admitted that these sectors have turned their back on Meretz in recent years "because in the past it was difficult for them to digest our policy concerning the peace process. But now that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is shaking hands with [Yasser] Arafat, they don't need Netanyahu and can come to us, because that's what we've been saying for 25 years."

CRM founder Shulamit Aloni spoke of "other days" which prevailed here until November 4, 1995, the day of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. "On that day, she said, 'we could see another future, which was severed."

"So sure were we of the rightness of our way, that we ignored the growing voices around us, the deceiving words and roars of madness from Jerusalem's Zion Square and from the rioters of Zo Arzenn. We dismissed the inciting hoodlums such as the Waldmans and the Kahnists, the Waldmans and Hanan Poratz, and the Benny Elons and his crowd."

Aloni stressed that Meretz's "rock of existence" is tolerance, humanism and decency.

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